



DVD case



CD jacket



Security sleeve



Download

## The Red Badge of Courage

*Stephen Crane (1871 – 1900)*

Read by: Mike Vendetti      Language: English  
 Length: 4 hours and 46 minutes      Style: Solo  
 Genre(s): Fiction, War & Military

### Product Formats and Options

Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1309	0686175923834	\$9.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1309	0686175923841	\$8.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1309	Option	\$4.99
MP3 download	Zip file	DL-1309	NA	\$3.99

Waiting beside a river for a battle to begin, Henry Fleming, an 18-year-old private in the Union Army, wonders whether he will have the courage to face the terror of battle or run when the going gets tough. Jim Conklin, his hometown comrade, admits he would run if the other soldiers fled. In the middle of the ensuing battle Henry deserts his regiment when it appears the enemy might carry the day; but after reaching the rear he learns his unit has been victorious. He escapes in shame to a nearby forest and stumbles across a group of injured soldiers that includes his friend Jim, who is losing blood and delirious. He freaks out and runs when Jim dies and gets smacked on the head with a rifle by a soldier, which provides him with a wound that serves as his “red badge of courage”. His honor recovered, he fights capably

in the next battle, becomes a flag bearer and later leads a group to victory over a Confederate regiment.

The story is known for its realistic portrayal of battles, which are thought to be drawn from accounts of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Unlike most war chronicles, the focus is on the state of mind of the protagonist and not on the external activities of the battle. Originally serialized in newspapers in December 1894, the book was published in October 1895, became a bestseller, made Stephen Crane an instant celebrity and established his place as an important modern writer.

**Stephen Crane** (November 1, 1871 - June 5, 1900) was an American writer considered by modern critics as one of the most innovative writers of his day. He was prolific throughout his short life, beginning to write at age 4, with several published articles by age 16. He is best known for his Civil War novel, *The Red Badge of Courage*, which achieved international acclaim in 1895 and was applauded for its realistic battle sequences, despite Crane's lack of battlefield experience. His first novel, *Maggie: A Girl of the Street*, is considered the first work in American naturalism and was lauded as a true-to-life depiction of life in the slums and tenements. After enduring a public scandal arising from his testimony as a witness in the trial of a prostitute, in 1896 he became a war correspondent. En route to Cuba his vessel sank off the coast of Florida, leaving him and others to drift for 30 hours in a dinghy, an ordeal he chronicled in “The Open Boat”. He went to Europe to cover conflicts in Greece and later lived in England, where he made friends with Joseph Conrad, H. G. Wells and others. Beset by financial difficulties and poor health, he died at the age of 28 in a sanatorium in the Black Forest in Germany. Crane's work was an important influence on 20th-century writers, most notably Ernest Hemingway and the modernists.